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By W. D. WALLACE.

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LIFE IN A FLEMISH NUNNERY.

The nuns never lie down, but sleep upright. I went up a narrow, steep staircase, and found the beds, they consist of a hard and almost cylindrical mattress, stuffed with straw, about three feet long, at right angles to which is fixed an equally hard, upright palliase, to support the back. There is no pillow, neither are there sheets, and only one small thin blanket. A small and sewer of water stood on the ground, and the sleeping habit hanging on a peg behind the door. There was no other furniture. A small window opened into the garden, and the smoky-suckle which embowered it gave something of a cheerful aspect to the denuded little dormitory.

They rise at half-past four, are only allowed five minutes to wash and dress, and go down to chapel, where they pray and meditate till half-past five, when their first mass is said. This is always at a fixed hour, and is followed by one and sometimes more. After these, they remain in the chapel till half-past eleven. Their first meal, which they call dinner, is at half-past twelve, and consists entirely of herbs, vegetables, rice, eggs, etc. Butter, cheese, milk, and what they call *batte*, they also eat, but not at *midnight* season. Their second and last meal is at seven, and consists of bread and the *hier du pays*. The sisters do everything for themselves, washing, mending, sweeping, scouring, etc. The rule of the lay sisters is slightly less severe, in every particular, but even this is ascetic enough to startle most secular persons.

The sister who showed us the mysteries of the house was a very pleasant, amiable looking woman of about thirty-five. She had a peculiarly calm expression of countenance, and expressed herself perfectly happy in the life in which she had made her choice, now above fifteen years since. The discipline they observe is said to be *bon point, avec un bon point de corps aussi*. It seems they are removed from house to house to prevent too great an attachment to one locality.

She and another lay sister were sent a short time ago on a mission to England, and this was another considerable grievance to her; but she kept her trouble to herself, and accepted as one of the duties of mission to the will of her superior, to which her rule bound her. The first night they arrived at London, where they put up at the hotel, they were shown into a room where the beds were, of course, horizontal. This was a difficulty which had not occurred to them, and they made up their minds to adopt the same position as the rest of the world. But no sooner had they tried it than they found it impossible to sleep, accordingly they relinquished the attempt, and taking the mattresses off the bedstead, placed it half upright against the wall, and had reason to be perfectly satisfied with their ingenious expedient.

Wild Cats.—A gentleman, having in his possession ten or twelve hundred dollars on a certain banking institution, went to West, went up to the counter, one fine morning, addressed the teller in the following language: "Good morning, sir. Beautiful weather, sir! Ahem! I've something over a thousand dollars' worth of your money in my pocket. Do you redeem?"

The teller says: "Sir, smiles blandly, and answers, 'we redeem, sir, but we do not pay specie.'"

"Do not pay specie, hey? Suspended, I suppose?"

"What do you redeem with?" was the next question.

"With bills on the other banks," replied the clerk.

"And those, I presume, are also non-specie paying banks?"

"Very probably they are, sir," bowing very politely.

"Well, then, what kind of bills can you give me?"

"Most any kind, sir. Give you Red Cat?"

"Well, then, how's Gray Cat?"

"Taint' w' h a cuss?"

"Well, I'll try to accommodate you with White Cat."

"It wouldn't be any accommodation at all, I don't want your infernal Wild Cat money—neither Red Cat, Gray Cat, Black Cat, White Cat, or Tom Cat. I wouldn't use it to litter a horse with. Haven't you got some money on Eastern banks?"

"No, sir," softly and very politely, "Eastern banks are principally specie-paying institutions."

"If not Eastern, then, have you bills on any other banks that do not pay specie?"

"No, sir," bowing most courteously.

"Well, then, drawing his package from his pocket, he made an expression of countenance, can you give me such a tolerably executed counterfeit bill on any bank that does not pay specie?"

"No, sir," very loud, and looks as if he felt insulted.

THE NEW MECHANICAL COMPOSITOR.—We have seen the much talked-of type-setting and distributing machine, recently patented by Mr. Alden, a practical printer. We cannot now but we attempt to explain it, further than that it has a rotary motion and picks the types as a case, and deposits them in a proper position to be set in the galley. It is certainly a great invention, but will never supersede the universal use. It can only set the type with rapidity equal to our best compositors, but then it combines one qualification which will not be lost sight of, and that is that it distributes the type at the same time that the setting operation is going on, or in other words keeps its cases full all the time. It might be used to advantage by book publishers, or even on weekly newspapers; but on a daily morning journal it would rather retard than facilitate the work. It often happens in a daily paper office that a piece of copy has to be cut up in what the printers call "takes" of four and five lines each, and divided between the forty men, every one of whom could perfectly accomplish as much in the few minutes that were allotted him as the machine. The only saving of time or labor in this new invention that we can perceive is in replacing the types after they have performed their duty. A good compositor will compose and distribute eight thousand ems in ten hours. This machine will do the same work in about six hours.

ONE OF THE JUSTICES.—There lives, not a dozen miles from this place, a certain justice of the peace, who, for some time since, has a gentleman arraigned before him on the charge of swindling. The following is the substance of the trial:

Justice of the peace—Prisoner, you are brought before me accused of an accusation to commit a swindle, and it now involves upon you to prove yourself guilty or not guilty to the satisfaction of this honorable court. What say you?

Prisoner.—Not guilty.

Justice.—Looking indignant and surprised.—The hell you say? Why I am now writing out a peremptory to send you to jail.

The prisoner arose to object to such a summary proceeding, but the Justice informed him that "there was no use of talking," and if he wouldn't shut his mouth, he'd flog him.

The peremptory was read, handed to an officer, and the prisoner judged.—*Coffeineer*, (Miss.)

INTELLIGENCE.

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